

Wayne Werts of Auburn, Maine on the occasion of his retirement.

Having served his community for 33 years as a firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Wayne Werts exemplifies the dedication and perseverance that our country holds in the highest esteem. Wayne joined the Auburn Fire Department on May 2, 1977. As an EMT, Wayne further advanced himself through an Associate's Degree in Fire Science, and then through a Paramedic certification—credentials which helped lead to Wayne being named Auburn Fire Department Chief on March 22, 2001.

In addition to his accomplishments as an active firefighter and EMT, Wayne is a long-standing leader in his community. He served as President of the Auburn Firefighters Association for 6 years and is in his seventh year serving on the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association Board of Directors as the representative for Androscoggin County. For 12 years, he has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board as the Municipal EMS Provider Representative. In addition, Wayne serves on the Task Force for the All Hazards Training Facilities Study. While Wayne's dedicated leadership will be missed, he leaves a legacy that has increased the effectiveness and strength of his community's safety departments as well as that of the entire State of Maine.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Wayne Werts for his lifelong dedication and service to his community.

#### EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 944, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on religious minorities in Iraq. Today's resolution highlights the struggles of Iraqi minorities since the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and offers solutions for peaceful reconciliation for the Iraqi people.

Madam Speaker, Southeast Michigan has one of the largest Arab-American populations outside the Middle East. It is estimated that there are well over 300,000 in Michigan, many of whom are Iraqi-American and are concerned on the future of Iraq. Specifically, the bill calls on the United States and United Nations to urge the Iraqi government to provide religious minorities with safe places of worship, guarantee protection of religious minorities, and ensure legal and political rights of this vulnerable population. This is vital because many of the more than 2.7 million Iraqi refugees are religious minorities.

Today's resolution will compliment President Obama's commendable plan to withdraw from Iraq in the summer of 2011. While withdrawal will do much to stabilize and empower the sovereign nation of Iraq, it is also important that the United States do its part to actively assist the Iraqi people in establishing policies that protect the civil rights and liberties of all Iraqi citizens.

#### HONORING TIFFANI JONES FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a student in my district, Tiffani Jones, from Central Islip High School.

Tiffani will receive the Honoring Our Future Leaders Award on February 27, 2010. To win this award, she wrote her own rendition of the "I Have a Dream" speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am proud to honor Tiffani for her academic and personal achievements and congratulate her upon the receipt of this prestigious award.

#### CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE TUCSON RODEO PARADE—"LA FIESTA DE LOS VAQUEROS"

**HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tucson Rodeo Parade which on Thursday celebrates its 85th anniversary. The Parade Grand Marshall is James "Big Jim" Griffith, beloved storyteller, musician, and folklorist and a Tucson tradition in his own right.

Known as "La Fiesta de los Vaqueros," the parade is a time-honored tradition for thousands of residents and visitors. It is a much-anticipated community event that reminds us of our past as a region shaped by the independence, drive, and determination of cowboys and cowgirls.

The Tucson Rodeo Parade first was held on Saturday, February 21, 1925. Arizona had been a State for only 13 years, and Tucson was still very much a rough and tumble community on the edge of the American frontier. My hometown and home State were very different places 85 years ago. All of Arizona back then had a population smaller than Tucson is today.

The inaugural Rodeo Parade rolled through downtown Tucson the same year the city purchased 1,280 acres on its cactus-studded outskirts for a municipal airport. This swath of desert would, in just a few short years, become the home of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, one of our Nation's premier military installations.

Prizes for entrants in the first parade, long before air conditioning or the modern supermarket, included a 750-pound block of ice, 100 pounds of potatoes and a "Big Cactus" ham.

This colorful and exciting parade continues today as a kickoff for the Tucson Rodeo. The parade is a salute to southern Arizona's rich ranching history and our community's close ties with Mexico. With the nickname of "La Fiesta de los Vaqueros," the rodeo and the parade are a true "party of the cowboys."

The Tucson Rodeo Parade keeps alive the spirit of that first parade. It long has been known as "The Largest Non-Motorized Pa-

rade" in the country and achieves its success through strong community participation and the commitment of the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee.

The Tucson Rodeo Parade has become such a cherished event that schoolchildren long have been given the day off so they can attend the festivities. In offices and work places all across Tucson jeans and cowboy boots are acceptable attire on parade day.

As a third generation southern Arizonan, I am proud to recognize the Tucson Rodeo Parade on its 85th anniversary and to commend the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee for sustaining this wonderful tradition.

#### COMMENDING ROBERT BUSHELL

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Robert Bushell, who recently won national recognition from the Reading Recovery Council of North America. Mr. Bushell is currently the elementary education director in my home town of Warwick, Rhode Island.

Mr. Bushell has devoted more than 40 years to public education, including time as principal of Lippitt Elementary School. It was there that he began his involvement with the Reading Recovery program, a short-term program of one-on-one tutoring for first graders struggling with early reading and writing. When training locations for Reading Recovery closed in Rhode Island, Mr. Bushell fought to obtain funding for the construction of a Reading Recovery site in Warwick. Several different school districts in the State now use the Warwick facilities to train in the program.

In addition to securing funds to open up the Reading Recovery location, Mr. Bushell's efforts have paid off with the students themselves. After 20 weeks of 30-minute tutoring sessions with a trained teacher, these students are achieving higher scores on the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) and maintaining those scores for years afterwards.

Robert Bushell has richly earned the commendation that the Reading Recovery Council is bestowing upon him. Rhode Island has been lucky to have Mr. Bushell as an educator for over 40 years and to have his support on this educational program for 20 years as well.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Robert Bushell and wishing him continued success with the Reading Recovery Program in Rhode Island.

#### HONORING ARIANNA PANTIN AND JANAI CLARK FOR WINNING THE HONORING OUR FUTURE LEADERS COMPETITION

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge two students in my district, Arianna Pantin and Janai Clark, from Deer Park High School.